HONGDO

BY SNOWY OWL

CHAPTER 08.5 CREDITS

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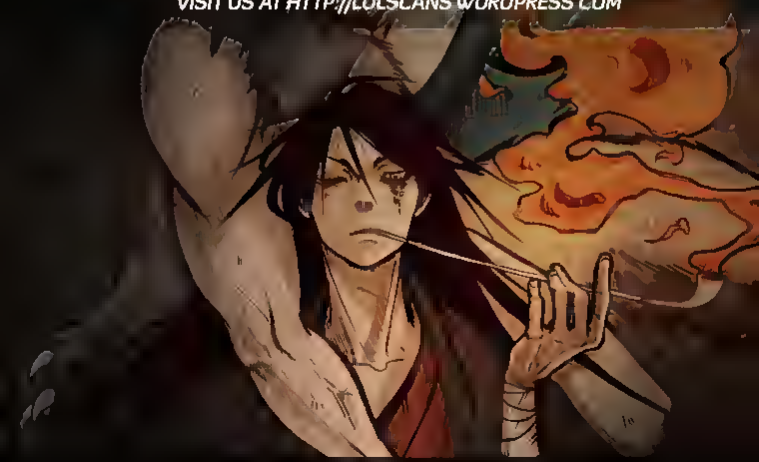

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Humans, foxes, goblins, ghosts, and sorcerers...

They all live together in this world.

HELLO, I AM S_OWL, HONG DO'S ARTIST.

AS I SAID EARLIER, I DON'T HAVE A REGULAR EPISODE PLANNED FOR THIS ISSUE.
THIS, HOWEVER IS AN EPISODE WHERE I AM GOING TO
EXPLAIN THE LORE OF HONG DO'S UNIVERSE.

A QUICK NOTE BEFORE WE START:
THE FOLLOWING STORIES ARE ONLY SUPPLEMENTARY MATERIALS
TO THE MANHWA TO HELP YOU UNDERSTAND IT BETTER.
SO THEY DON'T HAVE TO BE TAKEN TOO SERIOUSLY AND
YOU DON'T HAVE TO UNDERSTAND IT FULLY TO ENJOY IT)_(

LIKE IT WAS ANNOUNCED IN THE PROLOGUE, HONG OO IS
A WORLD WHERE HUMANS AND NON-HUMANS CO EXIST.

AND THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO HAVE SUPERHUMAN POWERS.
THEY'RE CALLED SORCERERS.

THEY CAN SEE, SMELL AND HEAR WHAT NORMAL PEOPLE CANNOT,
THEY CAN DO EXTRAORDINARY THINGS USING THEIR MYSTERIOUS POWERS.

THE MAIN CHARACTER, HONG DO, IS A SORCERER WHO HAS THESE ABILITIES.

HONG DO'S BACKGROUND

THE STORY STARTS IN GYUNG THE CAPITAL CITY OF GYO.
GYO WAS CREATED BY THIS CONTINENT'S CONQUERING DYNASTY.

PROLOGUE - HONG DO IN GYUNG

THIS IS A MAP OF GYO, IT IS THE ORIGIN OF THIS STORY

*IT LOOKS LIKE CHINA, BUT IT ISN'T CHINA

GYO IS A CONQUERING DYNASTY MADE UP OF EMIGRANTS.
IT WAS FOUNDED 400 YEARS AGO. EMPEROR TAE MOO,
THE COUNTRY'S FOUNDER, WAS AN EXCEPTIONAL SORCERER TOO.
THE COUNTRY'S CLIMATE IS TEMPERATE WITH FOUR REGULAR SEASONS.
SINCE THE NATION IS SO LARGE THE NORTH AND SOUTH
DO NOT EXPERIENCE THE SEASONS.

A DYNASTY THAT LASTS FOR 400 YEARS IS
A RARE THING BUT THIS IS A FANTASY WORLD (WINK).
THE CLIMATE COULD BE SAID TO BE THE SAME AS
SOUTH KOREA'S 20 YEARS AGO. THEY HAVE FOUR DISTINCT SEASONS
WITH IT BEING HOT IN SUMMER AND COLD IN WINTER.
HOWEVER, SINCE IT IS SO HUGE, THE CLIMATE DIFFERS FROM AREA TO AREA.

THE HISTORICAL SETTING

THE WORLD HONG DO LIVES IN IS SET 430 YEARS AFTER GYO WAS FOUNDED. IT IS A RENAISSANCE ERA OF SORTS WHEN NEW WESTERN CULTURES ARE BEGINNING TO BE INCORPORATED. MY INSPIRATION WAS THE TIME OF ENLIGHTENMENT FOR SHANGHAI AND THE ERA SURROUNDING IT. THE TOWN WE FOCUS ON IS A SMALL COUNTRY VILLAGE BY THE SEA, BUT THERE IS A STEAM TRAIN, AND WE ARE IN A PERIOD OF TRANSITION BETWEEN OLD AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND INDUSTRIES.

HONG DO'S ROUTE AND PURPOSE

THIS IS HONG DO'S CURRENT LOCATION.
THEY TRAVELLED BY THE COAST FROM THE RIVERSIDE VILLAGE
TO WHERE THE WATER SNAKE LIVED

THE CENTRE OF THE MAP IS GYUNG. IT IS WHERE THE PROLOGUE STARTED

THERE IS A SPIRIT GATE (GWI MOON) IN THE NORTH EASTERN AREA

IT IS HOME TO ALL THE NON-HUMANS IN THE STORY.
WE WILL GO DEEPER INTO THIS PART OF THE STORY
LATER ON IN THE SERIES.

THE STORY IS ABOUT A PERSON NAMED HONG DO,
HE HAS SPECIAL POWERS AND MUST USE THEM TO FIND CROW,
FOR A REASON THAT IS SECRET. IT IS ABOUT THE
BIZARRE EXPERIENCES HE HAS ALONG THE WAY.

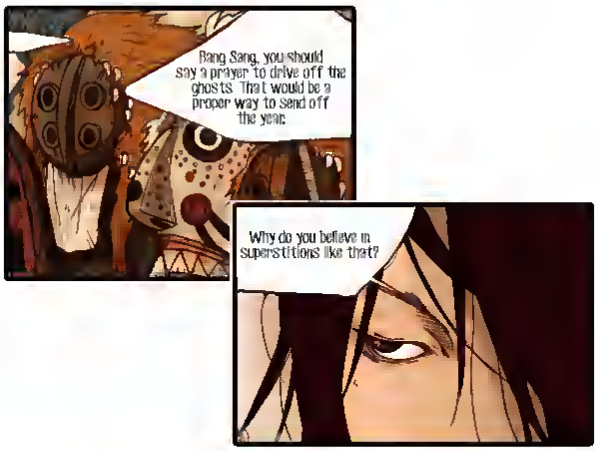
HONG DO'S VOCABULARY AND CONCEPTS

*SORCERER

WHAT IS A SORCERER?

GYO SORCERERS GO BY THE NAME NAJA.
THEY ARE PEOPLE WHO DEFEND THE COUNTRY FROM EVIL GODS.
AS PART OF THEIR DUTIES,THEY DRIVE OUT GHOSTS
WITH THEIR PRAYERS.

LOOKING AT THE PROLOGUE OF HONG DO,
YOU CAN SEE HIM SKIPPING WORK AT THE NA RYE CEREMONY.


Bang Sang, you should say a prayer to drive off the ghosts. That would be a proper way to send off the year.
Why do you believe in superstitions like that?

APPARENTLY, IT'S ABOUT RELIGIOUSLY PERFORMING A RITUAL
IN WHICH PRAYERS FOR THE SAFETY OF THE NATION ARE SAID,
WHEN IN ACTUAL FACT, ALL THEY DO IS TEND TO THE SEAL
THEY CREATED TO PREVENT FOREIGN COUNTRIES INVADING.

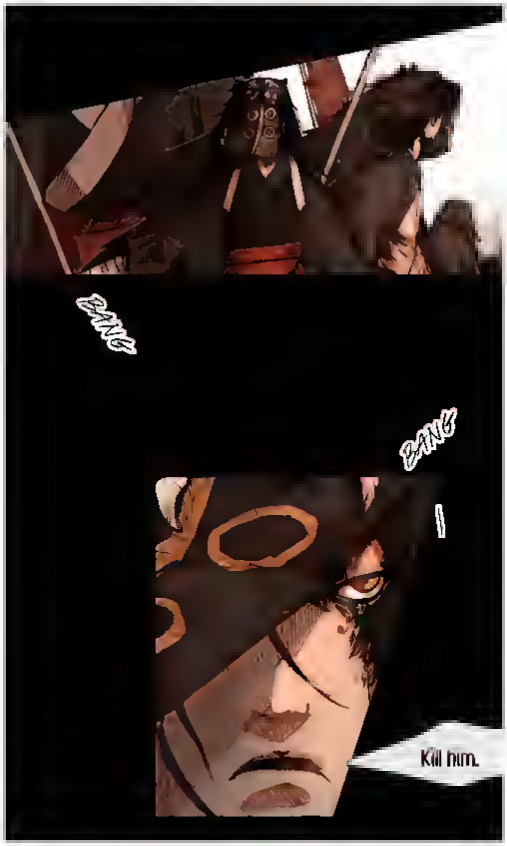
THE SORCERERS ARE DESCENDANTS OF IMMIGRANTS
LIKE EMPEROR TAE MDO, THE FOUNDER OF GYO.

THEY COMMUNED WITH GOD AND RODE HORSES ON THE PLAINS.
THEY WERE VERY FREE SPIRITED (VIOLENT) SOULS.
(HONG OO THINKS IN THIS WAY NOT BECAUSE HE IS A DESCENDANT
OF THE IMMIGRANTS, BUT BECAUSE HE HAD A POOR UPBRINGING.
THAT MADE HIM TWISTED. DON'T HATE HIM FOR IT)_(}

SORCERERS ARE IMPORTANT MEMBERS OF SOCIETY.
THEY BELONG TO GYO'S ROYAL FAMILY, A FAMILY WHICH
PROTECTS 8 SPECIFIC DISTRICTS THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

PUT SIMPLY, HE WORKS AS A CIVIL SERVANT

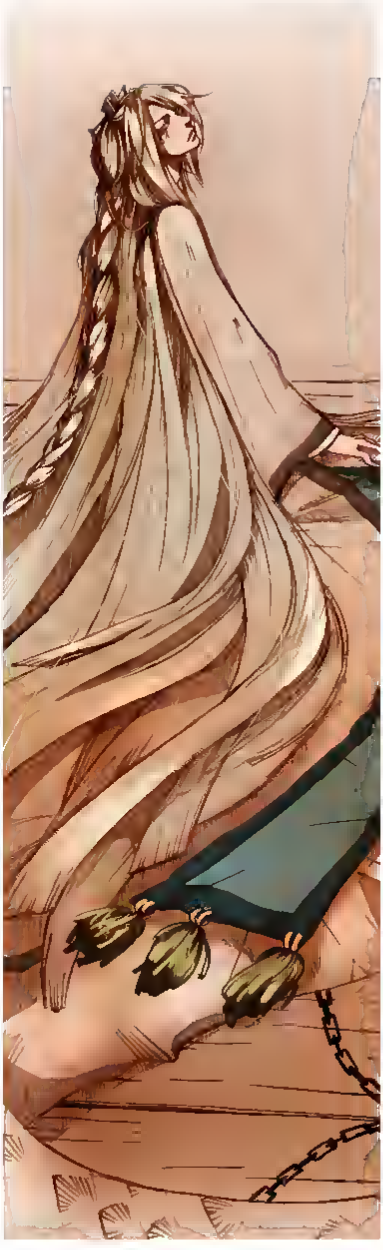
IT WASN'T HIS CHOICE; HE WAS BORN A SORCERER.
AFTER RECEIVING A SPECIAL EDUCATION HE WAS MADE
A CIVIL SERVANT, AND FORCED TO PROTECT
THE COUNTRY WITH HIS POWER.



THIS SCENE IS FROM HONG DO'S PAST,
IT WAS INCLUDED WHEN THIS MANHWA WAS
IN THE CHALLENGE LEAGUE FORUM.

IT IS OF HONG DO SLAVING AWAY FOR HIS COUNTRY.

*GUARDIAN GODS



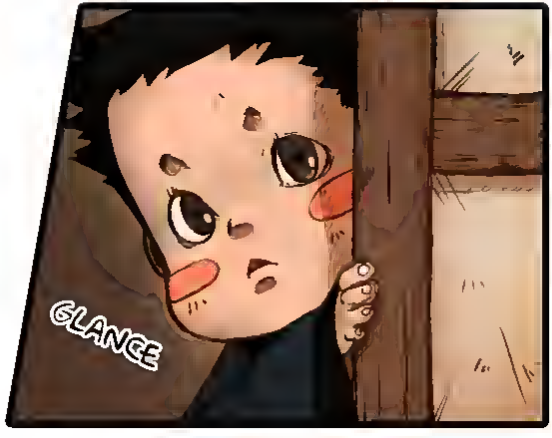
◀ THE WATER GOD FROM THE WATER SNAKE CHAPTER

THE EARTH GOD TA RYUNG IN HIS RAT FORM. ▶

THE WATER GOD IS A TYPE OF GUARDIAN GOD. SO TOO IS THE MOUNTAIN GOD WHO OFTEN APPEARS IN SIMILAR STORIES. THEY ARE AUSPICIOUS BEINGS WHO PROTECT AREAS FROM WITHIN. THEY ARE TIED TO THEIR AREA AND THUS ARE PREVENTED FROM LEAVING.

THEY HAVE GOD-LIKE ABILITIES, OUTRANKING OTHER MYSTICAL CREATURES.

*MYSTICAL CREATURES



MYSTICAL CREATURES HAVE A HIGHER INTELLIGENCE THAN HUMANS AND OTHER ANIMALS. THEY CAN SHAPE-SHIFT INTO HUMAN A FORM. THEY HAVE A LONG LIFESPAN AND HAVE MAGICAL ABILITIES. THE MAGPIE IN THE WATER SNAKE GOD CHAPTER IS ONE. ALSO THE FOX IN THE PROLOGUE COULD BE SEEN AS ONE BUT THEY ARE MORE OF AN INDEPENDENT RACE.

*EVIL GODS

WHEN AN AUSPICIOUS BEING, LIKE A GUARDIAN GOD OR MYSTICAL CREATURE, TRIES TO TAKE A LIFE AND HAS AN EVIL HEART THEIR BODY WILL BEGIN TO ROT, THEY START TO BECOME IRRATIONAL AND THEY BECOME AN EVIL GOD. THEY ARE NOT LIKE THEIR FORMER SELVES, THEY CREATE AND SPREAD CONTAGIOUS DISEASES, AND YET THEIR APPEARANCE IS UNCHANGED.

*FAMILIARS

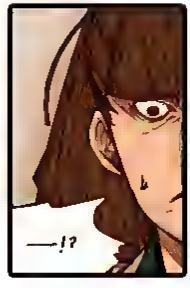
THE SOURCE OF ALL A SORCERER'S POWER COMES FROM HIS OR HER FAMILIAR. THEY HAVE A CONTRACT WITH THEM.

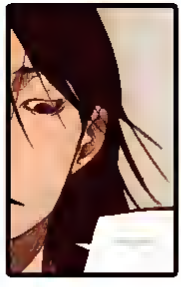
SORCERERS CAN HAVE CONTRACTS WITH GUARDIAN GODS, MYSTICAL CREATURES OR EVEN EVIL GODS, IT ALL DEPENDS ON HOW POWERFUL A SORCERER THEY ARE. SORCERERS CAN BORROW THEIR FAMILIAR'S POWERS, THIS IS DONE IN A SIMILAR WAY TO A SHAMAN BEING POSSESSED BY A SPIRIT.

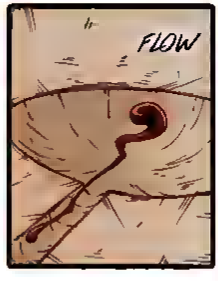
*SPIRIT GATE (GWI MOON)

THIS IS A HOME FOR NON-HUMANS. IT EXISTS IN THE ICE-LANDS TO THE NORTH EAST. IT IS A LAND THAT WAS SEALED OFF BY THE EMPEROR TAE MOO.

GYO'S YOUNG SORCERERS ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE TO THEIR FAMILIAR AND OPEN THE GATE HERE.







PROLOGUE, WHEN HONG DO AND
MOON GAL WERE YOUNG.

THIS IS HONG DO IN THE PROLOGUE. THE CEREMONY
PERFORMED HERE WAS DONE TO OPEN THE SPIRIT GATE

Q&A

I SELECTED THE MOST ASKED QUESTIONS,
WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE QUESTIONS WHICH ARE GOING
TO HAVE SPOILERS AND I HAVE LAID THEM OUT SHORTLY.
I AM SORRY FOR NOT ANSWERING ALL THE QUESTIONS~

Q: IS HONG DO A WOMAN?

A: HE IS A MAN

Q: IS HONG DO GOING TO CHANGE INTO A WOMAN?

A: HE IS NOT GOING TO CHANGE.
HE IS GOING TO BE A MAN FOREVER. //0//

Q: IS IT GOING TO BE HARD TO UNDERSTAND THIS MANHWA IF
I DIDN'T SEE IT WHEN IT WAS IN THE CHALLENGE LEAGUE?

A: WHEN I WAS AN AMATEUR AND POSTING THIS STORY ON
THE CHALLENGE LEAGUE, TA RYUNG WHO TURNS INTO A RAT
WAS NOT INCLUDED. THAT WAS BECAUSE
THE BACKGROUND WAS NOT STILL CONCRETE WHEN I DREW IT
AND IT NEEDED TO HAVE CERTAIN POINTS ADDED.
EVEN IF YOU DIDN'T SEE IT, THERE IS NO PROBLEM
IN UNDERSTANDING THE STORY

Q: IS THE BACKGROUND JAPAN?

A: LIKE I SAID EARLIER, THE BACKGROUND OF HONG DO IS AN IMAGINARY WORLD CALLED COUNTRY GYO. I TOOK THE MODEL OF CHINA IN THE TIME OF ENLIGHTENMENT. IF I FORCIBLY CONNECT IT, IT WAS AROUND JAPANESE COLONIAL ERA.

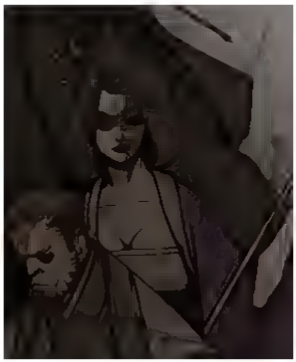
Q: THERE IS TOO MUCH JAPANESE INFLUENCE

A: THIS IS NOT JUST A QUESTION, BUT IT WAS OFTEN SAID IN THE REPLIES, SO I AM EXPLAINING THINGS HERE

THE STORY BACKGROUND OF HONG DO IS AN IMAGINARY WORLD CALLED COUNTRY GYO. AND IT WAS RECONSTRUCTED USING CHINA IN THE TIME OF ENLIGHTENMENT AS A MODEL.

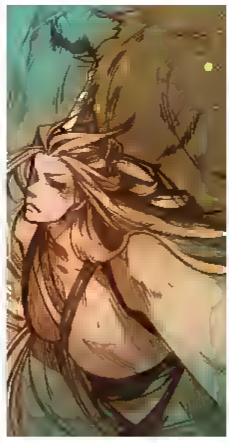
THE CLOTHES ARE DRAWN BY LOOKING AT WESTERN CLOTHES, QIPAO, TRADITIONAL CLOTHES FROM MOSTLY JIN HAN AND SOO DANG COUNTRIES.

THERE ARE TRADITIONAL KOREAN CLOTHES AS WELL, BUT I RECONSTRUCTED THE CLOTHES, SO IT CAN'T BE SEEN AS A REAL TRADITIONAL KOREAN CLOTHES

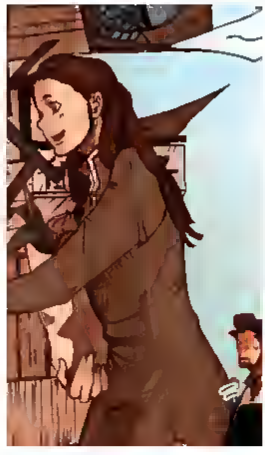


SEEN AS REAL TRADITIONAL KOREAN CLOTHES
ABOUT THIS WOMAN HERE, I DREW HER CLOTHES BASED ON
COUNTRY DANG'S TRADITIONAL CLOTHES. I TOOK OFF THE
LUXURIOUS ACCESSORIES FROM THE FEMALE TRADITIONAL
CLOTHES AND ONLY COPIED THE BASIC LINES OF THE COSTUME

I TOOK THE TRADITIONAL MALE CLOTHES OF THE JIN AND HAN ERAS .

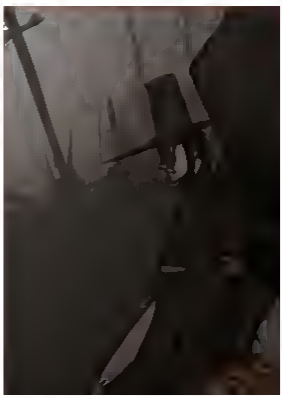


THE TRADITIONAL CLOTHES WITH WIDE SLEEVES WHICH THE WATER SNAKE WORE COMES FROM THE SOUTHERN TRADITIONAL CLOTHES BEFORE SU DANG COUTNRY PERIOD. I RECONSTRUCTED THE CLOTHES FROM THE FAINT PICTURES SURVIVING AND THE EXCAVATED ARTICLES. SO IT CAN'T BE REALLY SAID THAT I COPIED THEM CLOSELY, BUT I TOOK THEM AS A REFERENCE



QIPAO

I THINK THESE ARE THE MOST COMMON TRADITIONAL CHINESE CLOTHES.



THEY ORIGINATED FROM NORMAL CLOTHES
FROM THE MANCHURIA PEOPLE

I COPIED TRADITIONAL KOREAN CLOTHES. THEY ARE
NOT COMPLETELY THE SAME, I CHANGED THEM SO THAT
THEY WOULD BE EASIER FOR ME TO DRAW. SO PLEASE THINK
OF THEM AS RECONSTRUCTED CLOTHES, THANKS)_(

YANG PIL IS ONE OF THE FEW PEOPLE WHO WEARS WESTERN CLOTHING. TEACHER HWANG DOES TOO. LIKE I EXPLAINED ABOVE, IT IS THE TIME OF ENLIGHTENMENT FOR GYO WHEN THEY WERE STARTING TO ACCEPT WESTERN CULTURE, SO I THINK YOU MAY SEE SOME MORE SUITS IN THE FUTURE.

THE TRADITIONAL CLOTHES OF THE WORKERS WERE BASED ON MOVIES FEATURING THE SU DANG COUNTRIES AND THE 'PIRATES OF THE CARIBBEAN' FRANCHISE. SO THEY ARE NOT SPECIFIC TO A PARTICULAR COUNTRY.

I SPENT A LONG TIME TO EXPLAIN THE SOURCE OF THE TRADITIONAL CLOTHES THAT I DREW BUT I CAN QUITE UNDERSTAND ABOUT YOUR OPINION OF JAPANESE INFLUENCE.

MOST CULTURES IN EASTERN ASIA WERE INFLUENCED BY THE CHINESE WRITING CULTURE, THIS MEANS THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF SIMILAR STYLES IN EACH COUNTRY.

BUT PEOPLE OFTEN MISTOOK MY DRAWINGS TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF JAPANESE CULTURE, SO I WANT TO PUT A LOT OF EFFORT INTO EXPLAINING IT.

Q: WHAT DID THE LITTLE MAGPIE SACRIFICE IN THE WATER SNAKE GOD CHAPTER?

A: THIS IS ALSO A QUESTION I WAS ASKED IN THE CHALLENGE LEAGUE. IT IS HIS LIFE AS A MYSTICAL CREATURE. NOW THE LITTLE MAGPIE IS GOING TO HAVE A NORMAL LIFE WITH THE AFFECTION OF TEACHER HWANG WHO WILL FEED HIM OFTEN AND WELL. HE WILL DIE A NORMAL MAGPIE.

THIS IS MY PREPARED BACKGROUND STORY. I TRIED TO AVOID THE SPOILER, SO I COULDN'T EXPLAIN THINGS LONG, BUT I HOPE IT COULD HAVE HELPED YOU TO SEE HONG DO IN A MORE FUN WAY AND I HOPE THAT IT WAS EASY TO UNDERSTAND

I AM GOING TO FINISH THIS SPECIAL EPISODE NOW AND SEE YOU IN A REGULAR EPISODE NEXT WEEK

THANK YOU AGAIN FOR THE PEOPLE WHO READ MY MANHWA. I AM LEAVING A BONUS FRAME OF THE MANHWA BECAUSE I DON'T WANT TO LEAVE YET. I LOVE YOU EVERYBODY~

To be continued

A MESSAGE FROM LOLSCANS

To our dear readers:

It is with utmost regret to inform you that we will no longer be able to work on Hongdo. It has come to our attention that an official translation has already been in production, and with this we decided to stop scanlating the series.

We hope that you enjoyed reading Hongdo as much as we have enjoyed working on it.

Thank you very much for supporting our work!

LOL SCANS

For the official translations, visit
http://www.spottoon.com

and please continue supporting the author of this manhwa by visiting
http://www.daum.com

PS:
We have decided to finish the next two chapters we've already started working on, so that our staffs efforts won't go to waste. If you wish to read them, we have made them available at our site.

CHAPTERS 09 AND 10 ARE
AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD AT:
http://loscans.wordpress.com
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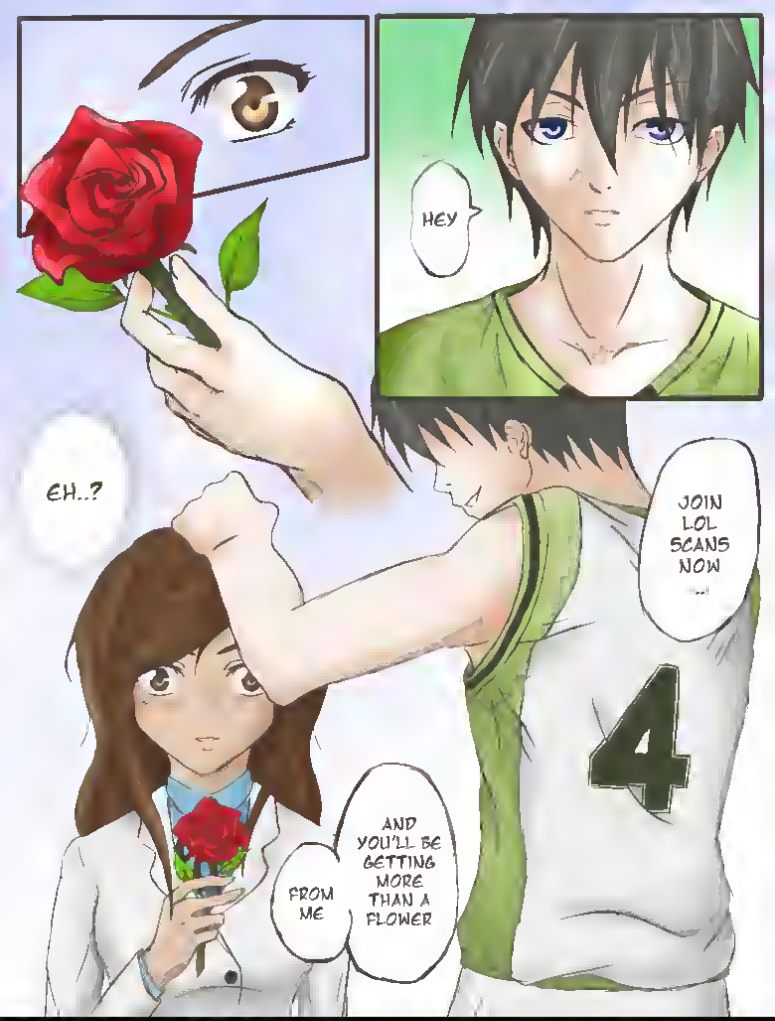

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Art Contest

Hello lovely readers!

LOLScans will be holding its first monthly art contest! The theme for the month is "*Mythical*". For more details on the contest, please visit our forum:

http://lolscans.boards.net